
HOUSE BILL 1422

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Ericksen, Sump, Woods and Kretz

Read first time 01/24/2005. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to small scale mineral extraction; and amending RCW
2 77.55.270.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.55.270 and 1997 c 415 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Small scale prospecting and placer mining shall not require
7 written approval under this chapter if the prospecting and placer
8 mining is conducted in accordance with provisions established by the
9 department.

10 (2) (~~By December 31, 1998,~~) The department shall adopt rules
11 applicable to small scale prospecting and placer mining activities
12 subject to this section. The department shall develop the rules in
13 cooperation with the (~~recreational~~) small scale placer mining
14 community and other interested parties.

15 (3) Within two months of adoption of the rules, the department
16 shall distribute an updated gold and fish pamphlet that describes
17 methods of (~~mineral~~) prospecting and placer mining that are
18 consistent with the department's rule. The pamphlet shall be written
19 to clearly indicate the prospecting and placer mining methods that

1 require written approval under this chapter and the prospecting and
2 placer mining methods that require compliance with the pamphlet. To
3 the extent possible, the department shall use the provisions of the
4 gold and fish pamphlet to minimize the number of specific provisions of
5 a written approval issued under this chapter.

6 (4) For the purposes of this chapter, "small scale prospecting and
7 placer mining" means only the use of the following methods(~~(:—Pans,~~
8 ~~nonmotorized sluice boxes, concentrators, and minirocker boxes)~~) for
9 the discovery and recovery of minerals:

10 (a) Pans, either motorized or nonmotorized;

11 (b) Motorized and nonmotorized sluice boxes, concentrators, and
12 rocker boxes;

13 (c) Motorized suction dredges;

14 (d) Nonmotorized equipment and hand tools used in the collecting of
15 mineral samples;

16 (e) Motorized power sluice and combination suction dredges and
17 power sluice; and

18 (f) Nonmotorized equipment used for crevice cleaning.

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